

S2 Table. Justification for choice of Medicines.

| | Disease | Medicine | Reason for inclusion |
|----|-------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Antiherpes | Acyclovir 400mg cap/tab | Essential medicine on Malawi Essential Medicine List (MEML) |
| 2 | Antiherpes | Acyclovir 5% cream | Essential medicine on MEML |
| 3 | Anthelmintic | Albendazole 10% suspension | Essential medicine on MEML and to be available in all health facilities |
| 4 | Depression | Amitriptyline 25mg tab | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines. Also essential in MEML |
| 5 | Infectious disease | Amoxicillin 250mg cap/tab | Medicine is on the List of Tracer Medicines for measuring Stock-outs by Ministry of Health-Malawi. As well as used for post-partum haemorrhage It is also on WHO-HAI global list |
| 6 | Infectious disease | Amoxicillin 25mg/mL suspension | Medicine is on the List of Tracer Medicines for measuring Stock-outs by Ministry of Health-Malawi. It is also on WHO-HAI global list |
| 7 | Cardiovascular disease | Benzylopenicillin 5 MU injection | Medicine is on the List of Tracer Medicines for measuring Stock-outs by Ministry of Health-Malawi and used in obstetrics |
| 8 | Infectious disease | Bisoprolol 5mg tab | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines as well as essential on MEML |
| 9 | Cardiovascular diseases | Captopril 25mg tab | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines |
| 10 | CNS | Carbamazepine 200mg tab | Used as anticonvulsant in Malawi. |
| 11 | Infectious disease | Ceftriaxone 1 g in vial, powder for injection | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines |
| 12 | Infectious disease | Cimetidine 400mg tab | Essential medicine in MEML |
| 13 | Ulcer | Ciprofloxacin 500mg tab | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines |
| 14 | Infectious disease | Cotrimoxazole 480mg tab | Medicine is on the List of Tracer Medicines for measuring Stock-outs by Ministry of Health-Malawi |
| 15 | Infectious disease | Cotrimoxazole 48mg/mL suspension | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines |
| 16 | CNS | Diazepam 5mg tab | Medicine is on the List of Tracer Medicines for measuring Stock-outs by Ministry of Health-Malawi and used in obstetrics |
| 17 | CNS | Diazepam 5mg/mL injection | Medicine is on the List of Tracer Medicines for measuring Stock-outs by Ministry of Health-Malawi and used in obstetrics |
| 18 | Pain/ inflammation | Diclofenac 50mg tab | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines |
| 19 | Maternal | Ergometrine maleate 200mg/mL injection | Indicated for use as an oxytocics in MEML |
| 20 | Infectious disease | Erythromycin 250mg tab | Essential medicine for sexually transmitted disease (STD) to be available in all health facilities. |
| 21 | CNS | Ethosuximide 250mg cap/tab | Used as anticonvulsant in Malawi. |

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|----|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 22 | Antifungal | Fluconazole 200mg cap/tab | Essential medicine on MEML. |
| 23 | Infectious disease | Gentamicin 80mg/2mL injection | Medicine is on the List of Tracer Medicines for measuring Stock-outs by Ministry of Health-Malawi |
| 24 | Diabetes | Griseofulvin 125mg tab | Essential medicine on MEML |
| 25 | Antifungal | Hydrochlorothiazide 25mg tab | Essential medicine on MEML |
| 26 | Cardiovascular | Ibuprofen 200mg cap/tab | Essential medicine on MEML |
| 27 | Pain/ inflammation | Insulin 100 IU/mL soluble injection, 10 mL | Essential medicine on MEML and consumption is increasing due to increase in NCD's |
| 28 | Diabetes-Insulins | Insulin zinc 100 IU/mL suspension injection, 10 mL | Essential medicine on MEML and consumption is increasing due to increase in NCD's |
| 29 | Diabetes-Insulins | Magnesium sulphate 50% injection | Medicine is on the List of Tracer Medicines for measuring Stock-outs by Ministry of Health-Malawi |
| 30 | Pre-Eclampsia, Eclampsia | Mebendazole 500mg tab | Essential medicine on MEML to be available in all facilities |
| 31 | Anthelmintic | Metformin 500mg tab | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines. Essential medicine in MEML. First-line treatment for non-insulin dependent diabetes |
| 32 | Cardiovascular | Methyldopa 250mg tab | Essential medicine on MEML and highly recommended as anti-hypertensive for pregnant women |
| 33 | Infectious disease | Metronidazole 200mg tab | Medicine is on the List of Tracer Medicines for measuring Stock-outs by Ministry of Health-Malawi |
| 34 | Oxytocics | Misoprostol 200mcg tab | Indicated for use as an oxytocic in MEML |
| 35 | Ulcer | Omeprazole 20mg cap | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines. Essential medicine for ulcers in MEML |
| 36 | Oxytocics | Oxytocin 10 IU/mL injection | Medicine is on the List of Tracer Medicines for measuring Stock-outs by Ministry of Health-Malawi |
| 37 | Pain/ inflammation | Paracetamol 500mg tab | Indicated for use in all health facilities in MEML |
| 38 | Pain/ inflammation | Paracetamol 24mg/mL suspension | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines |
| 39 | Anticonvulsant | Paraldehyde injection 10 mL vial | Indicated for use in all health facilities as anticonvulsant in MEML |
| 40 | Anticonvulsant | Phenobarbital sodium 200mg/mL injection | Indicated for use in all health facilities as anticonvulsant in MEML |
| 41 | Anticonvulsant | Phenobarbital sodium 30mg tab | Indicated for use in all health facilities as anticonvulsant in MEML |
| 42 | Anticonvulsant | Phenytoin sodium 50mg/mL injection | Indicated for use as anticonvulsant in Malawi Essential Medicines List |
| 43 | Anticonvulsant | Phenytoin sodium 100mg tab | Indicated for use as anticonvulsant in Malawi Essential Medicines List |
| 44 | Antischistosomal | Praziquantel 600mg tab | Essential medicine on MEML. The only medicine for bilharzia in Malawi |
| 45 | Asthma | Salbutamol inhaler | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines |

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|----|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 46 | Cardiovascular disease | Simvastatin 20mg cap/tab | Essential medicine on WHO-HAI Global list of medicines. Also available in MEML as lipid-lowering medicine |
| 47 | | Sodium chloride 0.9% injection | Medicine is on the List of Tracer Medicines for measuring Stock-outs by Ministry of Health-Malawi and used in obstetrics |
| 48 | Anticonvulsant | Sodium valproate 200mg cap/tab | Indicated for use as anticonvulsant in Malawi Essential Medicines List |
| 49 | | Tetracycline 1% eye ointment | Medicine is on the List of Tracer |
| 50 | Diarrhea | Zinc sulphate 20mg tab | Medicine is on the List of Tracer |